



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 1308.7 - Inform NT, Mar 2010

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## Summary

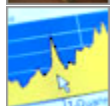
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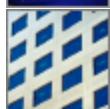
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### IN THIS ISSUE

Inform NT (cat. no. 1308.7) is a quarterly newsletter produced by the Northern Territory (NT) Office of the ABS. It provides information about statistical developments, activities and products relating to the NT. Inform NT is designed to raise awareness of ABS products and services and to assist researchers, policy makers, service providers and others with an interest in the NT.

### FORTHCOMING ISSUES

#### ISSUE (QUARTER)

June 2010

September 2010

December 2010

#### Release Date

23 June 2010

22 September 2010

21 December 2010

## **INQUIRIES**

For further information about this publication and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

## **Message from the NT Regional Director**



### **MESSAGE FROM THE NT REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

#### **NT'S CENSUS MANAGEMENT UNIT BEGINS OPERATION**

Welcome to the the first edition of Inform NT for 2010.

The NT Office ended 2009 by providing several training sessions for various Australian and NT Government agencies on ABS basic website navigation. More website navigation training sessions and other training courses, such as Turning Data into Information and Making Quality Informed Decisions, are being run throughout this year. If you are interested in this training, please visit the ABS Training webpage for further information.

The start of 2010 saw the commencement of our new Census Management Unit with Julie Nankervis appointed as its Director. The Unit will expand progressively as we gear up for the Census in August next year. We have also established a new unit in our Office to lead the Northern Australia Enumeration Strategy. This strategy is being developed in recognition of the significant challenges this region presents when conducting the population count and which, in turn, impact on the quality of the data collected.

I am also pleased to advise that I have been appointed to the NT Regional Director position and look forward to leading the NT Office through the 2011 Census and beyond.

Tom Joseph

Regional Director

## **Latest Statistics**



### **LATEST STATISTICS**

On this page:

NT Summary Statistics

Latest Issue of Regional Statistics NT Released

Territorians 'Tyre' of New Cars

Retail Sales Up in the NT

House Prices in Darwin – Onwards and Upwards

CensusAtSchool 2010 Questionnaire

## Do NT Prisons Have Revolving Doors?

### Selected Publication Release Dates

#### NT SUMMARY STATISTICS

Cat. no.	Selected data	Unit	NT	Aust.
3101.0	Estimated resident population (preliminary), 30 Sep 2009	'000	227.0	22 065.7
6202.0	Total persons employed (trend), Feb 2010	'000	120.9	10 971.6
6202.0	Total persons unemployed (trend), Feb 2010	'000	4.0	614.7
6202.0	Unemployment rate (trend), Feb 2010	%	3.2	5.3
6202.0	Unemployment rate (trend), Jan 2010	%	3.3	5.4
6202.0	Civilian population aged 15 years and over(a), Feb 2010	'000	169.1	17 779.3
8731.0	Total dwelling units approved, % change from previous month (trend), Jan 2010	%	1.2	1.9
8731.0	Total dwelling units approved, % change from previous month (trend), Dec 2009	%	10.6	3.1
6401.0	Consumer Price Index (CPI), % change Dec Qtr 2008 to Dec Qtr 2009	%	3.0(b)	2.1(c)
6401.0	Consumer Price Index (CPI), % change Sep Qtr 2009 to Dec Qtr 2009	%	-0.1(b)	0.5(c)

(a) See Labour Force, Australia, February 2010 (cat. no. 6202.0), Explanatory Notes para 10.

(b) Darwin.

(c) Weighted average of eight capital cities.

For further statistics about the NT see the latest issue of Regional Statistics, Northern Territory (cat. no. 1362.7).

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#### LATEST ISSUE OF REGIONAL STATISTICS NT RELEASED

The latest issue of Regional Statistics, Northern Territory, Mar 2010 (cat. no. 1362.7) was released on 12 March 2010. It contains a wide range of statistics (and links to statistics) about the NT and its regions, including two new topics – health and safety, and employment, education and training. This issue also includes a feature article, Indigenous people's experience of crime and justice in the NT, which reveals, among other things, that there has been some recent improvement in the rate at which the Indigenous population is imprisoned compared with the non-Indigenous population.

#### TERRITORIANS 'TYRE' OF NEW CARS

When comparing new motor vehicle sales in December 2009 to December 2008 the NT was the only state or territory to record a decrease, down 4% in seasonally adjusted terms. Sales increased by 17% nationally in seasonally adjusted terms over the same period.

Further information can be found in Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (cat. no. 9314.0) including monthly sales data for passenger vehicles, sports utility vehicles, and other vehicles.

#### RETAIL SALES UP IN THE NT

The latest retail trade figures show that trend sales in January 2010 increased by 0.2% in the NT, compared with 0.4% nationally. In trend terms, sales in the NT rose across two retail industry groups: the Household Goods Retailing group (up 1.1% compared

with 0.3% nationally) and the Cafes, Restaurants and Takeaway Food Services group (up 0.4% compared with 0.7% nationally). Sales remained steady for both the Food Retailing group and the Clothing, Footwear & Other Personal Accessory Retailing group, compared with national increases of 0.3% and 0.4% respectively.

Further information can be found in Retail Trade, Australia (cat. no. 8501.0).

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## **HOUSE PRICES IN DARWIN – ONWARDS AND UPWARDS**

The price of established houses in Darwin increased by 4.9% during the December quarter 2009. This was the seventh consecutive increase since the June 2008 quarter. All capital cities recorded an increase in house prices during the December quarter 2009, ranging from a high of 6.8% in Melbourne to a low of 2.1% in Adelaide. The weighted average of the eight capital cities increased by 5.2%. During the 12 months to December quarter 2009 house prices in Darwin increased by 13.6%, exceeded only by an increase of 19.7% in Melbourne.

Further information can be found in House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities (cat. no. 6416.0).

## **CENSUS AT SCHOOL 2010 QUESTIONNAIRE**

The ABS has launched the third run of the highly successful online data collection and analysis project, CensusAtSchool. The questionnaire phase officially opened on 27 January 2010. Students can access and complete the 2010 CensusAtSchool online questionnaire until 2 July 2010.

CensusAtSchool is available free to all schools in Australia and is aimed at students from Years 5–12.

From 2010, CensusAtSchool will be conducted on an annual basis with the aim of becoming a regular feature in classrooms across Australia. The CensusAtSchool program plays an important role in increasing statistical literacy of Australian school children and allows cross-curricular application and supports curriculum outcomes.

If you know any teachers or have children in Years 5–12, please encourage them to get involved and complete the 2010 questionnaire. With a streamlined registration system all teachers have to do to get involved is create a Teacher Account using our new online form.

For more information please visit the ABS CensusAtSchool webpage.

## **DO NT PRISONS HAVE REVOLVING DOORS?**

Almost half of the NT's prisoners are reimprisoned within 10 years of release, compared with 39% nationally, according to the latest edition of Australian Social Trends, Mar 2010 (cat. no. 4102.0). Using a wide range of statistics from the ABS and other official sources Australian Social Trends provides a picture of Australian society and how it is changing over time. The latest edition includes articles on repeat imprisonment, the labour market during recent economic downturns, health and socioeconomic disadvantage, income support among people of working age, and 'are young people learning or earning?'.

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## SELECTED PUBLICATION RELEASE DATES

Below is a list of selected publication releases containing NT data for the next three months. Publications with more than one issue due to be released during the period are listed only once. Please note some release dates may change after the publication of this newsletter. For all publication release dates please refer to the ABS Release Calendar.

Release date	Publication	Cat. no.
<b>Social</b>		
19 Apr	Water Use on Australian Farms, 2008–09	4618.0
18 May	Regional Statistics, Northern Territory, May 2010	1362.7
31 May	Recorded Crime – Victims, Australia, 2009	4510.0
3 Jun	Year Book Australia, 2009–10	1301.0
7 Jun	Northern Territory at a Glance, 2010	1304.7
17 Jun	Corrective Services, Australia, Mar 2010	4512.0
24 Jun	Community Services, Australia, 2008–09	8696.0
30 Jun	Australian Social Trends, Mar 2010	4102.0
<b>Demography</b>		
30 Mar	Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2008–09	3218.0
7 Apr	Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia, Feb 2010	3401.0
13 Apr	Migrant Statistics News, Apr 2010	3413.0
8 Jun	Household and Family Projections, Australia, 2006 to 2031	3236.0
23 Jun	What's New in Regional Statistics, Jun 2010	1386.0
<b>Education</b>		
12 Apr	Education News, Apr 2010	1330.0
29 Apr	Education and Training, State and Territory Tables, Australia, 2009 (first issue)	6278.0.55.005
26 May	Research and Experimental Development, Higher Education Organisations, Australia, 2008	8111.0
<b>Economy</b>		
1 Apr	Job Vacancies, Australia, Feb 2010	6354.0
8 Apr	Labour Force, Australia, Mar 2010	6202.0
8 Apr	Livestock and Meat, Australia, Feb 2010	7218.0.55.001
8 Apr	Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Northern Territory, Dec 2009	8635.7.55.001
9 Apr	Agricultural Commodities, Australia, 2008–09	7121.0
12 Apr	Housing Finance, Australia, Feb 2010	5609.0
16 Apr	Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia, Aug 2009	6310.0
22 Apr	Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, Mar 2010	9314.0
6 May	Retail Trade, Australia, Mar 2010	8501.0
17 May	Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index, Mar 2010	6467.0
9 Jun	Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia, Mar 2010	8412.0
24 Jun	Energy, Water and Environment Management, Australia, 2008–09 (first issue)	4660.0

## 2011 Census



### 2011 CENSUS

#### 2011 CENSUS GEARING UP IN THE NT

The 2011 Census is less than 18 months away and the NT is gearing up for the main event.

The Census Management Unit (CMU) commenced in the NT Office in January 2010 with Julie Nankervis appointed as its Director. Julie has extensive experience with census field operations as she was manager for the enumeration of Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and surrounding shires during the 2006 Census. Julie and her team were also involved in enumerating the Anangu Pitjantjatjara lands in South Australia.

The CMU is busy meeting with Australian, NT and local government agencies, non-government organisations and the general community to:

- raise awareness
- gather local intelligence
- discuss concerns and challenges that may arise before or during the census collection phase
- discuss the issues related to the recruitment of up to 1,000 field staff, including people from Indigenous communities, to enumerate the NT.

To ensure all people are counted the CMU is also busily designing census collector workloads. Prior to each census, collector workloads are designed to account for any population shifts or housing development since the previous census. The CMU has been working closely with NT Government agencies, shires, municipalities, real estate agents, property developers and other relevant organisations that may have information that will help it identify changes to population and housing in the NT since 2006.

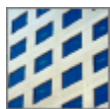
Finally, the CMU has started developing strategies for the homeless, Indigenous persons and travellers to ensure that everyone is counted in the 2011 Census.

For more information or to be part of the planning for the 2011 Census, please see the brochure 2011 Census of Population and Housing Local & Regional Engagement Strategy (cat. no. 2911.0.55.001) or contact the NT Census Engagement Manager on 08 8943 2188.

#### CENSUS NATURE AND CONTENT

The publication Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, 2011 (cat. no. 2008.0) was released in November 2009. This publication outlines the content of the 2011 Census and the procedures to be followed in collecting, processing and releasing the data.

## Developments in ABS Statistics



## **DEVELOPMENTS IN ABS STATISTICS**

On this page:

Review of the Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Helping You Make Sense of Statistics

NatStats 2010 Conference

New Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)

### **REVIEW OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)**

The ABS review of the CPI is underway. The CPI is a main economic indicator, measuring inflation faced by Australian households for goods and services. The review is focusing on the topics of: the principal purpose of the CPI; the compilation frequency of the CPI; an evaluation of the deposit and loan facilities index; maintaining the relevance of the CPI; commodity classification; analytical series; and other issues.

As part of the review process, the ABS has been consulting widely. Thank you to all those who attended the public forum held in Darwin on 9 March 2010, and/or provided a written submission.

For more information on the nature and content of the review and its progress, please refer to Issues to be considered during the 16th Series Australian Consumer Price Index Review, Dec 2009 (cat. no. 6468.0).

### **HELPING YOU MAKE SENSE OF STATISTICS**

The ABS recently released a suite of Understanding Statistics webpages on the ABS website. These webpages provide a centralised portal on the ABS website for all information and resources with a statistical literacy focus.

The Understanding Statistics webpages contain a range of fact sheets, information guides, video tutorials, presentations and online courses to help users:

- find the statistics they are looking for
- understand statistical concepts and processes
- analyse, interpret and evaluate statistical information
- communicate statistical findings with tables and graphs.

There are several other educational resources produced by the ABS such as the Introduction to Statistics online course and the Online Video Tutorials which provide a comprehensive overview of statistics and also how to find specific information on the ABS website.

### **NATSTATS 2010 CONFERENCE**

**NatStats 2010 Conference**  
15-17 September 2010 Darling Harbour Sydney

The ABS will be hosting another NatStats Conference at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, on 15-17 September 2010.

An exciting program is being developed and will address a range of issues regarding national statistics. Please visit the NatStats 2010 Conference webpage for more information or email [natstats@nss.gov.au](mailto:natstats@nss.gov.au).

## **NEW AUSTRALIAN STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHY STANDARD (ASGS)**

On 1 July 2011 the ABS will replace the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The ASGS will be used for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. The current ABS geography structure such as Collection Districts (CDs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs) and Statistical Divisions (SDs) will be replaced by mesh blocks and Statistical Area Levels 1 to 4.

Mesh blocks are the smallest geographical region and are the building blocks for the larger regions of the ASGS. Only limited Census data, total population and dwelling counts will be released at the mesh block level.

Statistical Area Level 1s (SA1s) will be the smallest region for which a wide range of Census data will be released, and will have an average population of about 400.

Statistical Area Level 2s (SA2s) will have an average population of 10,000 and will be built from SA1s. These will be the regions that the majority of sub-state intercensal data, such as estimated resident population, will be released.

Statistical Area Level 3s (SA3s) will be built from SA2s and will represent functional areas of regional cities and large urban transport and service hubs.

Statistical Area Level 4s (SA4s) will be built from SA3s and used for the release of labour force statistics.

Other ABS structures (e.g. Remoteness) and non-ABS structures (e.g. Local Government Areas) will also form part of the ASGS.

Further information about the ASGS can be found in the Information Paper: Outcome from The Review of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification, 2008 (cat. no. 1216.0.55.002).

## **Contacts**



### **CONTACTS**

### **CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND FEEDBACK**

Inform NT is a quarterly newsletter produced by the ABS NT Office designed to promote statistical developments relevant to the NT. If there is something you would like to see included in future issues or if you know of something that would be of interest to Inform NT



readers, please let us know.

Likewise, we would like to hear from you if you have any feedback on the content of the newsletter or suggestions for how it may be improved.

Contributions and feedback can be directed to the Client and Statistical Services Branch of the ABS NT Office, phone 08 8943 2105 or email [nt.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:nt.statistics@abs.gov.au).

## **ABS NATIONAL INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE (NIRS)**

NIRS is the first point of contact for all your statistical and publication enquiries.

Telephone: 1300 135 070

Email: [client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au)

## **About this Release**

Inform NT is a newsletter produced by the Northern Territory office of the ABS. It provides information about new developments, publications, seminars, training and reviews.

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